OF THE ... OF ... 17 APR 1918 ...AS.

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Madura Young Men.

NOTE TO OUR READERS:— News items were largely crowded out of our last issue, by the special material to which the paper was devoted. Activities for the month of March are briefly reported in the present number.

THE WEDNESDAY LECTURES.

Thank you!

The course of Wednesday Lectures has now been closed.

We wish to thank all those who so kindly lectured, and also those gentlemen who presided. The lectures have been of a high order of merit. They have been delivered by speakers who not only showed themselves experts, but also made careful preparation before giving us the benefit of their knowledge and experience. The audiences were all appreciative, and many of them were very large.

The Current Topics Club is also greatly indebted to the authorities of the Victoria Edward Hall, whose courtesy made this series of lectures possible, and who cooperated most pleasantly.

"Personality" by Tagore.

A brilliant lecture on this recent book of the great poet was delivered by Mr. N. S. Visvanatha Iyer, B.A., B.L. on March 6th, in the Victoria Edward Hall, under the auspices of the Current Topics Club. Mr. K. Chinnaswami Iyer, M.A., occupied the chair. The lecturer showed himself to be a devotee of Tagore, and a painstaking student; and in addition a clever critic and eloquent orator. The Chairman's well-known enthusiasm for literature along with his sympathetic and keen grasp of the subject fitted him admirably for presiding on this occasion.

" Japan Illustrated "

It was a matter for regret that Mr. A.J.Saunders, M.A. was unable to deliver his lecture on New Zealand as planned for the 13th. By special request, however, the lecture by Mrs. Bryce on " Japan ", which had been given elsewhere, was repeated in the Victoria-Edward Hall. The slides were very clear and beautifully coloured, the lecture was good, and the audience greatly appreciated their hour in the Land of the Rising Sun. Mr. C. Krishnan Nair, B.A., B.L., Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor, added to the enjoyment of the evening by the manner in which he fulfilled his role of chairman,

" Education in Travancore. "

Mr. Gopal Menon, Barrister-at-Law, and Mr. P. V. George, B.A., B.E., District Engineer' made a splendid team as lecturer and chairman in dealing with this topic. Both of them sons of the Feudatory State that lies beyond the Ghats, they knew whereof they spoke; and it was to many of the audience a revelation of the notable achievements of the past and great promise for the future that characterize H. H. the Maharajah's Government's work in this most important department of education. We are especially indebted to Mr. Menon for coming on the platform after a long and silent interval, to give us the very enjoyable lecture delivered on this occasion.

" Kashmir, with lantern slides. "

Rev. J. X. Miller, M.A., Principal of the High School at Pasumalai, who made a tour during last hot weather in the uplands of Kashmir, give us a most interesting lecture on that cool and fascinating Indian State. We do not experience snowstorms in South India at any time, much less during the warmer months; nor do we have hills that go 13,000 feet and more towards the heavens. This lecture fittingly capped and concluded the series; and we are grateful to Mr. R. Narasimha Iyengar, Pleader and Municipal Councillor, for sparing time from a Municipal election to preside on the occasion. His remarks about the Current Topics Club, were, if flattering, much appreciated.

The thanks of the Club are also due to Rev. Martyn Taylor for operating the lantern at this concluding lecture

THE DEBATING SOCIETY.

Three meetings were held during the month. At the session on Friday the 8th, Mr. Alwarappan Pillai made a good speech on the ever-pressing subject of Punctuality, and was followed by Mr. Dinakar Gnanaolivu with a witty address on the same theme. The other subjects assigned for speeches on the same occasion were Friendship and Obedience.

On the first Friday of the month the Society held its first Open Meeting. This took the form of a lecture on Japan, with lantern slides, by Mrs. Bryce, who spent much of her earliest youth in that fairyland of the Far East. The Y.M.C.A. School Hall, where the lecture was held, was tasked to its capacity by the audience which assembled. Mr. M. Manickavasagam Pillai, B.A., B.L., was the able Chairman on the occasion. The officers and members of the Debating Society played the role of hosts in a pleasant and efficient manner.

The Debating Society has now closed for the vacation but with bright hopes of resuming activity when the Colleges and Schools reopen. The last meeting of the season was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George P. Bryce. Refreshments were served, after which "play-ground ball" was played in the garden. Literary guessing games were the next item on the programme. The evening closed with a short business meeting, which satisfactorily wound up the affairs of the society for the season.

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THE SENIOR RELIGIOUS DISCUSSION GROUP.

On Sunday, March 10th, the Rev. E. Stanley Jones was the guest of the Discussion Group, and spent a very profitable hour in answering the various questions which were put to him. Mr. Jones had given three much appreciated addresses in the American Mission High School, and had also addressed the students of the American College, and a number of men were glad to have the opportunity of meeting him in a more intimate way. Thirty-five men were present at this gathering.

The Discussion Group has now been organized more formally, in order to increase the efficiency of the meetings. The following are the Committee: Mr. K. E. Nainan, M.A., Mr. A. Santosham, B.A., Mr. A. Ponniah B.A., B.L. The hour for the Group meeting is 10.15 on Sunday, and the place the Y.M.C.A. buildings. The general subject is Dr. Glover's noteworthy book, "The Jesus of History." Special topics and questions are prepared by the leader for the day, and vital discussion promoted. This group is doing splendid work.

THE PICNIC.

Thirty boys and four of the older member of the Association went for a picnic on the 11th, to Tirnparankondram and climbed to the rocky summit of the sacred hill. The excursion was much appreciated by all who participated in it, and a very happy day was spent.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Mr. D. Ernest is spending April at the Y.M.C.A. Summer-School at Khandala, Bombay Presidency. The Association believes in continued progress and developmnet, and therefore, every year, Summer-School and Conference give the Secretaries splendid opportunities to confer together, exchange ideas, brush up on the technicalities of Association work, and catch fresh inspiration for the daily round. We wish Mr. Ernest days of great joy and helpfulness at Khandala, and look forward to the time when his cheery presence, reinvigorated, will be amongst us again.

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